The Role of Sociogenomics on Chronic Wounds

John Hajji1, Kanhaiya Singh2,3, Chandan K Sen2,3

1Indiana University School of Medicine; 2Indiana Center for Regenerative Medicine and Engineering, Indiana University School of Medicine; 3McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Department of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Background and Objective:

Chronic wounds affect almost 2.5% of the United States population. Along with substantial healthcare costs, other factors like reduced employment opportunities and social isolation further complicate the patient’s quality of life. Socioeconomic status (SES) has been shown to influence gene expression that can increase susceptibility and deterioration of chronic wounds. Our study looks to identify genes that have been impacted by SES in chronic wound patients. Exploring this association can enhance understanding of the relationship between SES and chronic wound outcomes.

Experimental Design:

A cohort of 72 chronic wound patients were recruited. Patient demographics and socioeconomic backgrounds were collected. Blood DNA isolation was performed and allotted for genetic analysis by Axiom™ Precision Medicine Diversity Array (PMDA). DNA genotyping data was obtained, and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) markers pertaining to wound healing were studied. P < 0.05 were used to designate significant SNP marker mutations in the cohort.

Results:

To add strength to our project, we have chosen to further study the results obtained by our group (https://doi.org/10.18060/27205), which has previously found significant SNPs associations of the vitamin D receptor (VDR) and the methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) genes in chronic wound patients. Using PMDA, our analysis showed polymorphisms in CYP24A1 (p = 0.0072), a gene involved in vitamin D metabolism, and MTHFR (p = 0.00625), a gene involved in folate and homocysteine metabolism. Modifications of these genes have been associated with pathogenesis to impaired wound healing.

Conclusion:

There is a need for further investigation into health outcomes and their association with SES. Our study aims to address the knowledge gap in this field by focusing on chronic wound healing in relation to socioeconomic status. With our results, we hope to emphasize the importance of sociogenomics, and how it can be utilized to advocate for improved patient outcomes across all socioeconomic backgrounds.
Acknowledgements:

This project was funded, in part, with support from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute funded, in part by UL1TR002529 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The presented work is also supported by NIH grants R01DK135447 and R01DK128845 to CKS. The laboratory of KS is supported by DoD grant W81XWH-22-1-0146. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.